



JEROME J. KEATING BRANCH

BRANCH NINE NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

1964

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RED AND GOLD RETIREE BANQUET

On May 6, 2018, Branch 9 held its largest event of the year, our annual Red-Gold Retirees Banquet.



The Banquet is about Honor and Gratitude, and that flowed like the waters. President-Emeritus Lenny Larson was presented with the plaque that will hang at the building's entrance, naming our building after him.



In a bit of conspiracy, we honored our long-time building cleaner Judy Ahler, with her family present, a plaque and the title

Red Gold cont'd on page 6

National Association of Letter Carriers' Promote Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive at Twins game



Twins Game/Food Drive cont'd on page 14

RETIREMENTS



Darrell Maus (Brooklyn Park/ EVP) @ GMM, receives his pin and watch from Pres. Mike Zagaros.



Jeff Rydeen (Fridley) last punch with Steward Perry Korzenowski. Happy Retirement!

The Following is a List of PAL 9 Paid Members for May & June 2018.

Very Concerned Members

Ronald C Moore
JoAnn Gilbaugh
Carlos Garcia
Connie Beissel
Samantha Hartwig

Regular Members

Michelle Benson
Lenoard Rardin
Steven Oehlerich

Thank you.

Ron Lawrence
Treasurer PAL 9

Welcome New Members

Jesus Baltazar
Dennis Bradley
Laura Burgard
Gerald Dunwoody
Wanda Fuerstenberg
Elijah Glad
Joseph Hollenback
Brady Lamberson
Xiaofeng Mao
Erin Marquardt
Abdirahman Maye
Chris Meyer
Erik McFee
Walker Merchant
Jautassa Nelson
Patrick Nelson
Tyler Povlitzki
Lisa Roberts
Lamonte Turner
Jordan Vasseur
Tyler Vasseur

In Memoriam

Bruce Temte

City Carrier Assistant and New Career Employees Meeting

Thursday, August 16th,
2018 @7:00PM

Crystal VFW
5222 56th Avenue N
(Bass Lake Road)
Crystal, MN 55429

This meeting provides CCA's and new career employees a great opportunity to learn more about your rights at work and your future with the Postal Service.

Branch 9, NALC
2408 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
Voice: (612) 781-9858
Fax: (612) 781-9849
Website: branch9nalc.com

Branch 9 Officers

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Mike Zagaros

Exec. Vice President

Samantha Hartwig

Recording Secretary

JoAnn Gilbaugh

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Editor

Jeremy Rothstein
branch9news@branch9nalc.com

Sergeant at Arms

Robb Petersburg

Trustees

Ken Jambois
Stacey Ellingson
Joe Rian

Director of Retirees

Rodney Anderson
C: (651) 270-7807

NALC Health Benefits Rep.

Mike Smith
HBR: (612) 963-6252

The Branch Nine News is a monthly publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily those of the OFFICERS, or of NALC Branch 9.

Articles MUST be submitted to the editor by the 1st of the month, and must be signed. The Editorial Staff reserves the right to edit or refuse to print articles which are derogatory in nature.

Any official NALC organization may reproduce our articles provided appropriate credit is given.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Spring has sprung and now we are in the heat of the summer. At Branch 9, its time to collect our breaths, sort of. As you can see in this issue of the Branch Nine News, the month of May was very busy. First, we had the **MDA Muscle Walk** and the welcome dinner at the **MDA Summer Camp** in June; thank you to those who donated items and funds and thank you to those participated in all the MDA events. I would like to give a special thank you to Joe Rian, Branch 9 Trustee and MDA chair.

The day after the Muscle Walk we held our Annual **Jerome J. Keating Branch 9 Red & Gold Banquet**, where we honored our retired members. We honored our 31 new Gold Card Members (50 years) of membership; 6 new 55-year members; 7 new 60-year members; 2 new 65-year members and 2 new 70-year members and the **2018 Retiree of the Year Jim Fodstad**. Wow! If that wasn't enough, earlier this year, the Branch voted to name the Branch 9 Building the **Leonard A. Larson Building** after President Emeritus Lenny Larson. We displayed the plaque that is being affixed inside the front door of our office. Then came the two surprises. First, we honored **Judy Ahlers**, the woman who took care of our building for over 20 years, by making her an honorary member of Branch 9 and a retiree of Branch 9. Then we inducted newly retired member **Pam Donato** into the Branch 9 Hall of Fame. We wrapped up the Banquet with the Keynote Speaker NALC Assistant Secretary/

Treasurer Judy Willoughby The next week was the 26th **Annual Food Drive** where Branch 9 collected **over 600,000 lbs.** of food and the cash equivalent. Branch 9 & 28 again collected over 1,000,000 pounds of the cash equivalent and food. To put this in perspective this amounts to over 850,000 meals. Thank you to all the Letter Carriers for your efforts and a special thanks to **Branch Food Drive Coordinator Mike Linn** and all the Station Food Drive Coordinators and volunteers.

Finally, on June 8th we said good bye to the newly retired **Darrell Maus** with a great retirement party. Darrell and his wife Peggy retired on the same day right after the last day of school. Thank you to all who attended as we sent Darrell off in style.

Darrell served as the Executive Vice President of Branch 9 beginning May 1, 2011 during that timeframe we survived the "WOO" (Window of Operations), where management was routinely violating the provisions of Article 8 by maintaining that we had an artificial window that all operations in the carrier craft needed to be completed. While it took the collective action and patience of the membership, we eventually prevailed after several arbitration decisions in the union's favor.

Today we seem to be experiencing a bit of déjà vu. Again, we are seeing what is an almost routine violations of the provisions of Article 8, whereby **carriers not on the OTDL** are repeatedly being required to work overtime prior to exhausting the OTDL and the auxiliary assistance is not being maxed out. In a bit of a double-edged sword again we also



Mike Zagaros

experiencing numerous number of carriers on the OTDL and CCAs working past the maximum hours called for in Article 8 Section 5G. As in the days of the WOO, it will extremely important that all carriers communicate with their Supervisor and tell them when you have more work than they can complete in hours. **Request a PS Form 3996** indicating how long you believe it will take to complete all that management is asking. Remember a pivot is not a pivot if it results in the carrier working overtime. Communicate with your Steward.

The cause of this is NOT management attempting to establish some new kind of Operational Window but the result of **staffing issues**. We are missing significant amount of CCAs to provide assistance to our Stations and Branches. In discussions with Management, it is not from the lack of effort, they are trying to hire more CCAs but are experiencing difficulties getting them through the hiring process. However, in the absence of our full complement of CCAs, it is taking a toll on the full-time carriers and CCAs. It's should come as no surprise that with the increase in the amount of work being foisted

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Branch 9's Exec. Vice President Darrell Maus Retires



Pres. Report cont. from pg. 3

upon the reduced number of carriers is resulting in, according to management an increase in the amount of sick leave. We have been told that Management will be doing **attendance reviews** and we will probably see an increase in the amount corrective action (discipline) being taken against our members. In the Minneapolis Installation, carriers are entitled to have their steward present during any attendance review unless the carrier does not want representation. In our Associate Offices, while we do not have the same agreements in these offices, Letter Carriers are entitled to being represented by their Steward if you believe that discussions could lead to disciplinary action. We have a few Associate Offices that do not have a steward. In that case, please contact the Branch Office.

But these are not the only threats us. Elsewhere in this issue, there is information related to the proposals by the current Administration to change the benefits to both CSRS and FERS retirement systems as well as other benefits that we currently enjoy. While many of these changes have been offered before, they have added a new wrinkle regarding the Postal Service. For the first time in quite a while the word **"privatization"** is being bandied about. At the most recent General Membership Meeting, I asked if people were concerned the possible privatization of the USPS. No hands went up. I know that many believe that it won't happen. But with this Administration, Congress and Supreme Court can we simply ignore their rhetoric and their proposals? We must be engaged in the political process. We need to have the resources

necessary to respond to these new threats. We cannot have only 10% of the membership contributing to the **Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF) and/or PAL 9.**

We need to ask ourselves are we doing everything we can protect our jobs and our benefits?



<https://nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity/yes-i-want-to-become-a-pac-member>

or send \$ and become a member to:

P.A.L.9
11581 Ilex St. NW
Coon Rapids, MN
55448



Exec Vice President's Report

I AM LOOKING FORWARD

to finishing out term of Executive Vice President for Branch 9 as Darrell Maus begins his next adventure into retirement. I want to thank Darrell for his years and dedication to helping the members of Branch 9, and for teaching me a few things along the way.

It is an honor to be given the opportunity to finish out the term of Executive Vice President. I began my career as a part time flexible in August of 2003 at the Main Post Office. When I finally got converted to regular two years later I was awarded a bid at the Eastside Post Office and ran for union steward. I have been actively representing the members of Branch 9 ever since.

I have been the Food Drive Coordinator at the Branch, State, and at the Regional Levels. That experience has taught me how to work with many different partners, and different Unions. I have attended the University of Minnesota's Union Leadership Program which allowed me to network and get to know other union activists from around the state of Minnesota. In 2012 I graduated from the NALC Leadership Academy as part of class 13. The friendships and contacts with other NALC leaders that were made during those 3 weeks has helped me grow as an advocate and see how other local branches are run different from Branch 9. I was given the opportunity to receive more extensive training in OWCP through special classes that the National NALC has taught over the last several years. In Branch 9 alone, I have been able to put that training to use as the Branch 9 OWCP representative.

I was a Trustee for the Branch in 2011 through 2012, and I became the current Financial Secretary in 2016. Having previous experience on the Executive board has helped to prepare me for how to properly manage the finances of the Branch. I will always be willing and ready to learn new things.

One of my goals is to see more members of all backgrounds starting to get involved within the Union. Being involved in the Union is more than just representing the membership as a steward. We have opportunities to help in Social areas through raising money for Muscular Dystrophy (MDA), the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, and other community oriented activities. There are also opportunities to help organize social events for the members such as a summer time picnic, a holiday party, casino run, or ice fishing trip. I know there are other activities, or events that the membership participate in that I would enjoy learning more about, and sharing that with our members. I am always looking for suggestions that give the members of Branch 9 an opportunity to meet each other beyond their own stations. I believe that Branch 9 can be a much stronger Union and have more power when more individuals get involved. In this time of division in our country, we the members of Branch 9, can take a first step toward uniting. Let us start with meeting each other, and getting to know our fellow carriers. I know this is easier said than done, but if it was easy it wouldn't be worth fighting for. Together we can create a better workplace and a better Union. I feel that being in a Union is about bringing people together in an effort to promote



Samantha Hartwig

solidarity, and comradery. The more we get to know each, the more we will start to care about each other, and the more we will fight for each other. The more we fight for each other, the more management will have to listen to us. This is what I believe that being in the Union is all about.

As the Executive Vice President, I am committed to assisting all Branch 9 members, career, CCA, and retirees to the best of my abilities, and more. I believe that together we can build a stronger Union.

In solidarity

Samantha Hartwig
Executive Vice President Branch 9



THE BRANCH 9 RED AND GOLD RETIREE BANQUET

Red Gold cont'd from page 1



well to participate as we honored Pam by inducting her into the elite company of the Branch 9 Hall of Fame. She has proudly represented Branch 9 and the members of the NALC for many years. Most recently at NALC headquarters and Branch 9 president prior to that. She has influenced many of

of Honorary Letter Carrier (the highest distinction we can bestow). Judy joined the Branch 9 NALC family in 19992 when we purchased our current building. She had cared for the previous building owner 20 years before us. Judy was one of the greatest assets we received with purchase.

We also invited her friend, former Branch 9 President Pam Donato, to be part of that. But unknown to Pam, we invited her family as



the current Branch leaders.

We also bestowed our appreciation to the Retiree of the Year, James Fodstad. Even after retirement Jim continues to support and advocate for Letter Carriers and Branch 9 through his actions and service. Thank-you Jim.



Judy Willoughby, our national NALC Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, was our representative from the National Office, and gave us her friendship and a short address. Among other things, she told us that she really liked the Honor that Branch 9 yearly extends our Veterans at this banquet. In her travels around the nation, she said, she has never seen that.

Of course, our main focus was in honoring our Gold Card members (those who had achieved 50 years of membership in the NALC). We likewise honored those of 55 years membership, our Ruby pin honorees (60 years), and those who had joined the NALC 65 and 70 years ago. Wow. This writer's mind boggled. I am 70 years old, and we honored Andy Hiben, George Farmer, Russell Magnuson and Roger Ritter who had joined the Branch BEFORE I WAS BORN — in 1947.

President Mike Zagaros presided, and told us that Branch 9 has approximately 700 retirees. Of these, 181 are Gold Card members. The banquet was a terrific and successful event, as usual, one of the major highlights of Branch 9's year. I would like to extend my many thanks to the honorees, the attendees, and the volunteers who work so hard every year to make it a success.

Rodney Anderson
Director of Retirees



Al Gulden



Barry Weiner



Carol and Timothy Bearth



Craig Ites and Denny Folke



Dave Olson w/
Michael and Rhonda Manning



Chris Peterson and Jim Magnuson



Jim and Vicki Hamilton



JoAnn Gilbaugh, Mike Zagaros, Samantha Hartwig and Darrell Maus



Joel Carter



Jonathon Peterson



Leonard Rardin



Ray and Carol Tranby



Ron and Mary Sholl



Ron Roelke w/
Mike and Pam Welch



Maryliss Fox w/
Lori and Scott Randolph



Steve Oehlerich and Sally Menefee



Mary Hardgraves and Teresa Olerich



The Kleiters



70 year member Roger Ritter and Family



Jan Wild and daughter Heather Briggs w/ Bill Mechels



Kathy Speiss and Joe Bedor



Florence and Francis Rice w/ Vernon and Norma Zierman



Gerald and Mary Mattox w/ Tom Mattox



Burton Baker



The Buystedts



Carol Garnto and Jon Frick



Joyce and Kent Cleland



"Groucho" Patterson w/ The Kovacs and Pam Donato



65 year member Thomas Ryan and Family



John Hilden and Jane Karas

BRANCH 9 2018 SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING WINNERS
--

WALTER E. COULLARD/EUGENE P. McNULTY - \$2,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Tyler Knaeble	U of MN Duluth	Jeremiah Knaeble	West Edina
1st Runner-Up	Rachel Walton	U of Kansas	John T. Walton	Bloomington
2nd Runner-Up	Paul Thompson-Nelson	U of MN	Karen Thompson	Lowry

JEROME J. KEATING/AUSTIN B CARLSON - \$2,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Shanice Vaughn	Iowa Lakes	Manon Wojack	Lowry
1st Runner-Up	Hailey Hanson	UW Eau Claire	Scott Hanson	Brooklyn Ctr
2nd Runner-Up	Paul Thompson-Nelson	U of MN	Karen Thompson	Lowry

J. WESLEY WOODS - \$1,000.00

		<u>School Attending</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Work Location</u>
Winner	Hailey Hanson	UW Eau Claire	Scott Hanson	Brooklyn Ctr
1st Runner-Up	Shanice Vaughn	Iowa Lakes	Manon Wojack	Lowry
2nd Runner-Up	Lauren Bedard	Winona State	Ken Bedard	Loring

LEONARD A. LARSON/BARRY J. WEINER - ADULT SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000.00

		<u>Position</u>
1st Winner	Melia Derrick	Retired
2nd Winner	Lorene Banovetz	Retired

**Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson
scholarship winner.**

My name is Shanice Vaughn. I am the daughter of Manon Wojak. She's been a carrier for 18 years. I am pleased to be receiving the Jerome J. Keating/Austin B. Carlson scholarship. It will give me more opportunities in the future, This fall I will be attending Iowa Lakes Community College with a partial scholarship for basketball. I am hoping to use these scholarships to get a degree in business management. Thank, I really appreciate it.

Shanice Vaughn
Thomas Edison High School 2018



NALC's statement on OMB's proposal to privatize the Postal Service (nalc.org)

NALC President Fredric Rolando criticized the Trump administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposal to privatize the United States Postal Service, which was released.

"This report takes direct aim at numerous agencies including USPS under the guise of reforming and restructuring for the 21st century," President Rolando said. "The White House is making very clear that privatization of the Postal Service is its goal, despite the fact that the stakeholder meetings with the White House Postal Task Force are ongoing.

"NALC has long been committed to working with all of the stakeholders and not one has floated the idea of privatization except private shippers, who would love nothing more than to see the Postal Service dismantled. "NALC had high hopes in engaging with this administration and its Postal Task Force to address the underlying issues facing the Postal Service, which stem from the 2006 mandate to pre-fund future retiree health benefits. The NALC along with the other postal employee unions provided recommendations to the Task Force. We were hopeful that this administration was seeking real solutions to stabilize this agency with an 88 percent public approval rating where veterans make up almost 25 percent of its workforce.

"Now that we know that this administration and its Task Force will make recommendations on reforms to achieve OMB's privatization goals, NALC will work tirelessly with other stakeholders and Congress to oppose this faulty privatization plan every step of the way to preserve this public institution, which is based in the Constitution."

Update on Trump executive orders attacking federal employees (nalc.org)

On May 25, President Trump issued three executive orders designed to strip federal employee unions of long-established rights to workplace representation and to undermine their ability to negotiate collective bargaining agreement with their agencies. NALC posted the executive orders and requested a legal analysis from its outside attorneys. That analysis has concluded that the three executive orders do not apply to the Postal Service or its unions, a conclusion that was confirmed in writing by officials of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

NALC President Fredric Rolando issued the following statement on the executive orders:

"These executive orders are an outrageous attack on America's civil servants, the everyday heroes who make sure that our airlines and foods are safe, our Social Security checks are distributed and the air, water and environment we depend on is clean. As my friend and fellow union brother J. David Cox Sr., the president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said: 'This is more than union busting – it is democracy busting. These executive orders are a direct assault on the legal rights and protections that Congress has specifically guaranteed to the 2 million public-sector employees across the country who work for the federal government.' I totally agree. The NALC stands in solidarity with AFGE and all the federal unions and will work with them to reverse these executive orders."

Senate Appropriations preserves 6 day (nalc.org)

In a markup on Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Act. Of particular importance to letter carriers, the committee preserved NALC's long-standing language preserving six-day mail delivery, following similar preservation of language from the House committee.

Now that the bill has passed out the full committee, it will await Senate passage along with the other appropriations measures. However, as has been the case in recent years, the appropriations process will likely not be completed in time for the end of the fiscal year, which will result in temporary funding measures before an eventual omnibus package passed.

NALC will monitor the progression of both the House and Senate FSGG bills on their respective chamber floors as well as any actions around an omnibus.

FOOD DRIVE DAY

At Diamond Lake we believe the day of the food drive is one of the hardest working days of the year. We like to start the day with a potluck. We had several clerks and carriers bring in food to share. The meal helped to start a very busy day with a good attitude and a feeling that we can get through this day together. We even had leftovers for when carriers came back to the station at the end of the day. Another idea was getting volunteers to help collect the food. The volunteers took the food from the mailbox and put it into a bucket in the middle of

the block for the carrier to pick up when driving by. The volunteers (nephew Reese and niece Katie Davis, of clerk Betty Bell) had fun and help carriers that day. A woman on my route said that her children saw the volunteers having fun and helping on their block.

Rob Medley food drive coordinator
Diamond Lake



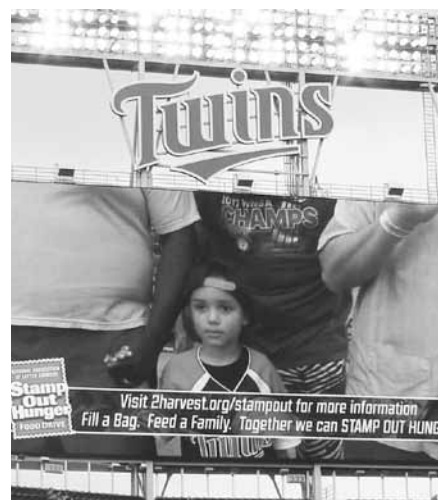
Twins Game/Food Drive cont'd from page 1

TWINS GAME

On Tuesday, May 1st Carriers were recognized with an on the field appearance at Target Field promoting the upcoming annual NALC "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive. It is because of corporate sponsors and recognition like this that makes this the most successful one day collection of food in the world. After leaving the field prior to the game a community kiosk was provided by the Twins and staffed with the volunteers previously recognized. Fans recognized the uniforms of our carriers and conversations began about when and how they could be involved in the food drive. The people who were going

to be out of town on May 12th were happy to know they could still donate an online donation at 2harvest.org. They were further surprised when they were told that Land O Lakes was going to match up to \$25,000 all of the online donations. That is why this drive is as successful as it is. It is because of the customers we deliver to, the corporate sponsors, and of course the letter carriers dedicated to the cause of families not going hungry.

THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED
WITH THIS GREAT CAUSE.



	The Twin Cities Postal Headquarters	St. Paul 935 N. Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55103 651-224 - 7567
Minneapolis 2220 Lyndale Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55405 612-377-0011		

Beat the Heat, Stay Cool

It's that time of year again when the temperature rises, and the potential for heat-related illness becomes a factor in your daily work routine. Beat the heat with these quick tips:

1. Hydrate before, during, and after work. Prevention is important; maintain good hydration by drinking at least 8 ounces of water every 20 minutes.
2. Dress appropriately for the weather. On warm days, wear light-colored, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing to keep your body temperature down.
3. Use the shade to stay cool.

When possible, use shaded areas to stay out of direct sunlight.

4. Know the signs of heat stress. Understand what heat stress is, and how it can affect your health and safety. Watch out for:
 - Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating;
 - Headaches, confusion or dizziness, Nausea;
 - Muscle cramps;
 - Weakness or fatigue; & rashes

Notify your supervisor or call 911 if you experience signs of heat-related illness. This not only ensures your safety, but can also save your life.

NALC Branch 9 @ Camp Courage



An amazing meal provided by the NALC and Branch 9 volunteers. It fueled up the kids for a little RED VS BLUE Capture the Flag! Blue took home the trophy!

Join Branch 9 for “The Great Minnesota Get-Together”

August 23 - September 3



2 shifts available:
9:00AM - 1:00PM
1:00 - 5:00PM



Call the Branch or see your steward to sign-up.



Br. 9 Retired Letter Carrier
Kerry Herdine
Home: 952.854.2655
Cell: 612.805.8407

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- *Signing up for E-activist at NALC.org
- * Branch9nalc.com (website)
- * "like" our Branch 9 Facebook Page
- * Follow us on Twitter

Contribute to the PAC
The Letter Carrier Political Fund is the anchor for NALC's legislative and political activities.



nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity

Branch 9 Calendar

<p>July 4 Independence Day</p>	<p>August 14 Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>
<p>July 10 Steward Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>	<p>August 16 CCA Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>
<p>July 16-20 NALC National Convention Detroit, MI</p>	<p>Aug 23-Sept 3 MN STATE FAIR</p>
<p>July 24 General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>	<p>August 28 General Membership Meeting 7:00PM Crystal VFW, Crystal, MN</p>



Northside Retiree Breakfast
1st Tuesday of the Month
9:30AM @ Elsie's
729 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis

N Suburban Retiree Breakfast
1st Friday of the Month
8:30AM @ Denny's Restaurant
9020 Quaday Avenue NE, Otsego

Southside Retiree Breakfast
2nd Tuesday of the Month
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

Nokomis Retiree Breakfast
4th Tuesday of the Month
9:00AM @ Fred Babcock VFW
6715 Lakeshore Dr, Richfield

POCUM
4th Monday of the Month
6:00PM - Labor Centre -2nd Floor
312 Central Ave, Minneapolis